

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01

IO-10 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /064 W

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O R 201240Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3471

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 4083

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL ROUNDUP

SUMMARY: INCIDENT-FREE PS RALLY IN LISBON JULY 19 DREW SOME 75,000. SPEAKERS CONDEMNED GOVERNMENT WITHOUT NAMING NAMES. CROWD CHANTED FOR OUSTER OF PRIME MINISTER. SUBSEQUENT SKUFFLING BETWEEN PS MILITANTS AND CIVILIAN AND MILITARY MEN AT CHECKPOINT FORTH OF CITY PROMPTED COPCON STATEMENT WARNING THAT IT WOULD SHOOT IF NECESSARY TO ENSURE ORDER. FIFTH DIVISION HAS ISSUED STATEMENT ATTACKING SOARES' "DIVISIONIST" STATEMENTS AND ASSERTING THAT PRIME MINISTER REPRESENTS ESSENTIAL COHESION AND UNITY. MORE ANTI-PCP INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM NORTH. PCP EFFORTS TO CREATE PHONY COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY SCARE HAVE NOT BEEN CREDIBLE. PCP HAS REDOUBLED ITS EFFORTS TO SAVE PRIME MINISTER. NO ANNOUNCEMENTS RE POSSIBLE CHANGES IN RC COMPOSITION HAVE BEEN MADE. END SUMMARY

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1. PS DEMONSTRATION: LARGE SOCIALIST (PD) DEMONSTRATION, DRAWING ESTIMATED 75,000, TOOK PLACE WITHOUT INCIDENT IN LISBON EVENING JULY 19. THRUST OF VARIOUS SPEAKERS, INCLUDING SOARES, WAS STRONG CONDEMNATION OF GOVERNMENT WITHOUT NAMING NAMES. CROWD INTERRUPTED SPEAKERS ON NUMEROUS OCCASIONS WITH CHANTS OF "OUT WITH GONCALVES." FOLLOWING DEMONSTRATION, SOME PS MILITANTS WENT TO VILA FRANCA TOLLGATE BRIDGE ON NORTHERN HIGHWAY TO CITY AFTER RECEIVING REPORTS THAT TRAFFIC WAS BEING HELD UP THERE BY LEFTIST CIVILIANS AND MILITARY MEN. SCUFFLING ENSUED BETWEEN THE RIVAL GROUPS, AND SHOTS WERE FIRED INTO AIR TO RESTORE ORDER. COPCON SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED STATEMENT WARNING AGAINST "PROVOCATIVE ACTS" AND THREATENING TO SHOOT INSTIGATORS IF NECESSARY TO ENSURE ORDER.

2. FIFTH DIVISION STATEMENT: FIFTH DIVISION OF ARMED FORCES GENERAL STAFF ISSUED STATEMENT JULY 20 ATTACKING "DIVISIONIST" STATEMENTS OF SOARES AT PS RALLY; STATING THAT COMPOSITION OF NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD BE DETERMINED EXCLUSIVELY BY AFM AND POLITICAL PARTIES HAD NO "RIGHTS" IN THIS PROCESS; AND ASSERTING THAT PRIME MINISTER VASCO GONCALVES REPRESENTED ESSENTIAL "COHESION AND UNITY."

3. MORE VIOLENCE REPORTED: OTHER REPORTS OF VIOLENCE INCLUDE:
-- THE UNCONFIRMED SHOOTING DEATH JULY 19 OF AN INDIVIDUAL ATTEMPTING TO EVADE A CHECKPOINT ON OUTSKIRTS OF LISBON.
-- DESTRUCTION OF PCP HEADQUARTERS JULY 19 IN FAR NORTH TOWN OF VALENCA.
-- LATER REPORTS FROM PORT CITY OF MATOSINHOS STATE THAT 14 PERSONS WERE INJURED JULY 19 IN CLASH BETWEEN ANGRY TOWNSPEOPLE AND PCP MEMBERS DURING PCP SUPPORTED MARCH TO GET RID OF ELECTED CAMARA MUNICIPAL.
-- VIOLENCE IN AVEIRO, WHICH BROKE OUT ON JULY 18 WHEN TOWNS-PEOPLE ATTACKED PCP MEMBERS PUTTING UP ANTI-PS POSTERS CONTINUED INTO JULY 19. PCP OFFICES WERE DESTROYED AND ARMY HAD TO DISPERSE CROWD WITH SHOTS INTO AIR. ONE MILITARY MAN WAS KILLED AND ONE CHILD WOUNDED AS RESULT OF STRAY BULLETS.

4. RC REMAINS SILENT: SOME MEMBERS OF RC MET WITH PRIME MINISTER JULY 19 BUT NO ANNOUNCEMENTS RE POSSIBLE CHANGES IN RC COMPOSITION HAVE BEEN FORTHCOMING. PRESIDENT, IN HIS CAPACITY AS RC CHAIRMAN, ISSUED ANNOUNCEMENT JULY 19 STATING THAT: NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE ANOTHER COALITION; NEW GOVERNMENT WOULD CONFIDENTIAL

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REFLECT VARIOUS SOCIALIST CURRENTS; AND PARTY MEMBERS SHOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE IN NEW GOVERNMENT AS INDIVIDUALS BUT NOT AS MEMBERS OF PARTIES.

5. MEDIA TREATMENT: MEDIA HAS HANDLED EVENTS IN ANTICIPTED FASHION. PS RALLY RECEIVED SCANT COVERAGE BY LEFTIST PRESS AND RADIO. RADIO REPORTS HAVE GIVEN PROMINENCE TO MESSAGES OF SUPPORT FOR PRIME MINISTER FROM VARIOUS "POPULAR" ORGANIZATIONS.

6. COMMENT: THE IMPRESSIVE PS TURNOUT COMBINED WITH THE INCIDENTS OF ANTI-PCP VIOLENCE INDICATES THE DEPTH OF DISCONTENT WITH CONTINUED LEFTWARD DRIFT. PCP ATTEMPT TO CREATE PHONY COUNTER-REVOLUTIONARY SCARE THROUGH IMAGES OF "MARCH ON LISBON" A LA SEPTEMBER 28, 1974 HAS NOT BEEN CREDIBLE. PCP HAS REDOUBLED ITS EFFORTS TO SAVE PRIME MINISTER; THESE EFFORTS ARE REFLECTED BY INCREASING PROMINENCE GIVEN BY MEDIA TO PLEDGES OF SUPPORT FOR GONCALVES. COMMUNIST-LINING FIFTH DIVISION'S PLUG FOR PRIME MINISTER AS NECESSARY TO COHESION AND UNITY OF AFM IS CONSISTENT WITH THIS EFFORT. BUT FIFTH DIVISION DOES NOT ALWAYS REFLECT VIEWS OF EITHER RC OR AFM.

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